

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AF-10 ARA-10 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 EA-07 EUR-12 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 IO-13  
L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02  
PA-01 PRS-01 OES-07 SS-15 USIA-06 DLOS-09 /142 W  
-----171429Z 113385 /50

R 171230Z JUN 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8331  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 OF GENEVA 4871

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM,CCD

SUBJ: SEABEDARMSCONTROL TREATY REVIEW CONFERENCE, PRELIMINARY  
CONSULTATIONS WITH BRISH, JUNE 16, 1977

1. SUMMARY: ON JUNE 16 US AND UK REPS HELD A PRELIMINARY  
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STRATEGY CONSULTATION IN REGARD TO THE SEABED ARMS CONTROL  
TREATY REVIEW CONFERENCE, SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON JUNE 20.  
US AND UK REPS INDICATED SATISFACTION WITH THE TREATY AS IT  
STANDS, AGREEING ON A LOW-KEY APPROACH TO THE REVCON AND  
THE DESIRABILITY OF SUGGESTING THIS TO THE SOVIETS.  
END SUMMARY

2. US AND UK DELEGATIONS TO THE SEABED ARMS CONTROL TREATY REVIEW CONFERENCE HELD PRELIMINARY CONSULTATIONS AT NOON ON JUNE 16. US REP (SLOSS) STATED THAT THE US IS SATISFIED WITH THE SEABEDS ARMS CONTROL TREATY AND WOULD LIKE THE REVIEW CONFERENCE TO COME TO THE SAME CONCLUSION; THAT THE AMENDMENT PROCESS SHOULD BE KEPT SEPARATE FROM THE REVCON, SINCE THE AMENDMENT PROCESS IS DISTINCT FROM THE REVIEW PROCESS; THAT ANY LINKAGE TO LAW OF THE SEA ISSUES SHOULD BE AVOIDED; ANT THAT THE UK DRAFT FINAL DECLARATION SEEMS ABOUT RIGHT IN SUBSTANCE, ALTHOUGHT THE US COULD OFFER SOME STYLISTIC SUGGESTIONS. IN GENERAL THE BRITISH DRAFT COULD BE VIEWED AS A GUIDELINE AND GOAL, BUT DEPENDING ON THE POSITIONS TAKEN BY OTHER COUNTRIES, SOME CHANGES MIGHT BECOME NECESSARY.

3. UK REP (ASHE) INDICATED THAT, BASED ON PRELIMINARY SOUNDINGS, THE SOVIET POSITION SEEMED ABOUT THE SAME AS THAT OF THE UK AND US; CERTAINLY THE RUSSIANS WOULD WANT TO STICK TO THE TREATY AS IT IS NOW. ROMANIA'S INTENTIONS ARE AS YET VAGUE, ALTHOUGH THEY PROBABLY WILL INVOLVE ACCENTING THE FIRST SENTENCE OF THE TREATY'S PREAMBLE AND PUSHING FOR FURTHER STEPS TOWARD DEMILITARIZATION OF THE SEABED. AS FOR THE SWEDES, ASHE DID NOT BELIEVE THEY HAVE A PARTICULAR PROPOSAL TO PUT FORWARD, BUT THOUGHT THEY WILL WANT TO TAKE A VERY SERIOUS LOOK AT THE QUESTION OF NEW TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS.

4. ASHE STATED THE UK WOULD THINK IT A MISTAKE FOR THE THREE DEPOSITATIES (US, UK, USSR) TO TAKE THE CONFIDENTIAL

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INITIATIVE OF TABLING A DRAFT FINAL DECLARATION, BUT THAT INSTEAD IT WOULD BE WISEST TO EXPLORE THE VIEWS OF OTHER COUNTRIES, IF POSSIBLE GETTING LIKE-MINDED DELEGATIONS TO INTRODUCE LANGUAGE BASED ON THE BRITISH DRAFT. IF PARTICULAR PORTIONS SEEMED UNLIKELY TO GAIN WIDE ACCEPTANCE, THE DEPOSITARIESCOULD CONSULT FURTHER. SLOSS AGREED, SAYING THAT PROCEEDING ON AN ARTICLE-BY-ARTICLE BASIS, DURING THE COURSE OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE'S WORK, WOULD BE FAR PREFERABLE.

5. SLOSS INDICATED THAT IN ITS OPENING STATEMENT THE US WOULD PREFER TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION OF A WILLINGNESS TO LISTEN AND AN INTEREST IN THE VIEWS OF OTHERS. HOWEVER, THE US DOES NOT SEE THE NEED FOR AMENDMENTS, AND DOES NOT WISH TO STIMULATE OTHERS TO PROPOSE ANY. ASHE REPLIED THAT THE UK OPENING STATEMENT WOULD CENTER ON HOW WELL THE TREATY HAS WORKED, AND MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT EXPLICITLYLY DRAW THE CONCLUSION THAT NO AMENDMENTS ARE NECESSARY. ON THE OTHER HAND, ASHE SAID, THE SOVIETS

ARE LIKELY TO BE VERY HEAVY IN INSISTING THAT THE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 GENEVA 4871

REVCON NOT TINKER WITH TREATY.

6. US ALTERNATE REP (TURRENTINE) STATED THAT US  
ANALYSIS POINTS TO THREE POSSIBLE AREAS OF CONTENTION  
DURING THE REVCON. THE FIRST IS THE QUESTION OF NEW  
TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS. THE SECOND IS ARTICLE V'S  
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PROVISION FOR CONTINUING NEGOTIATIONS IN THE FIELD OF DISARMAMENT FOR THE PREVENTION OF AN ARMS RACE ON THE SEABEDS. IN REGARD TO THIS IT COULD FIRST BE NOTED THAT THERE HAS NOT BEEN AN ARMS RACE ON THE SEABEDS, AND THAT THERE IS LITTLE PROSPECT OF ONE. FURTHER, AGREEMENTS IN OTHER FIELDS (E.G., THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION, THE ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION CONVENTION) AND NEGOTIATIONS IN PROGRESS (E.G., SALT AND NEGOTIATIONS ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS ) IMPOSE SIGNIFICANT CONSTRAINTS AND GREATLY REDUCE THE PRESSURES FOR A SEABED ARMS RACE. THUS THE OBSERVANCE OF ARTICLE V DOES NOT REQUIRE THE EXISTENCE OF NEGOTIATIONS SPECIFICALLY RELATED TO THE SEABEDS; OTHER ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS HAVE A MAJOR IMPACT BY IMPLICATION. THE GHIRD POSSIBLY CONTENTIOUS USSUE IS THE QUESTION OF THE APPROPRIATE TIME PERIOD FOR SCHEDULING THE NEXT REVIEW CONFERENCE.

7. IN REGARD TO THE FORTHCOMING TRIPARTITE MEETING WITH THE SOVIET DELEGATION (REPORTED SEPTTEL), SLOSS AND ASHE AGREED ON THE DESIRABILITY OF SUGGESTING A LOW-KEY APPROACH TO THE CONFERENCE, IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE SOVIET TENDENCY TO ACCENT COLLUSION BY THE THREE DEPOSITARIES, THEREBY UNNECESSARILY IRRITATING ALLIED AND NON-ALIGNED DELEGATION.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Type:** TE  
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Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009